

# MEMO

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## AIA'S 1979 FIRM AWARD GOES TO GBQC

The firm of Geddes Brecher Qualls Cunningham, located in Philadelphia and Princeton, has been selected to receive the Institute's 1979 Architectural Firm Award. It is the highest honor AIA can bestow on a firm.

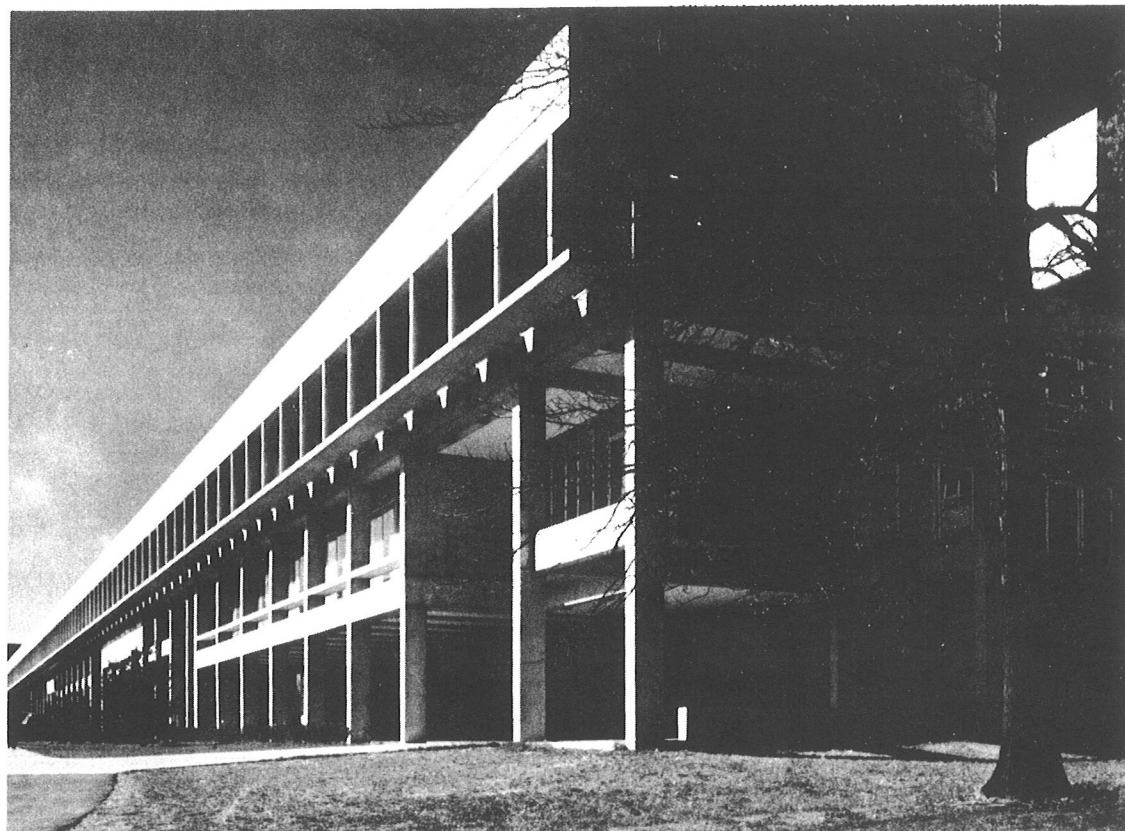
The award, given to "a firm which has consistently produced distinguished architecture for a period of at least 10 years," will be presented during the national convention at Kansas City, June 3-7.

The 65-person firm was founded in 1954 by Robert L. Geddes, FAIA, and Melvin Brecher, FAIA, both educators. They were joined by George W. Qualls, FAIA, in 1956 and Warren W. Cunningham, FAIA, in 1960.

All of GBQC's work has been characterized by high design quality, an understanding of the natural and built environment, and social concern. It also has been committed to architectural education and professional development.

Academic buildings have been a major part of its work. Its Moore School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania won an AIA Honor Award in 1960, and its Humanities and Social Sciences Center at Southern Illinois University captured a 1977 Honor Award.

GBQC's Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton received the 1973 Design Award of the New Jersey Society of Architects/AIA as well as the Philadelphia Chapter/AIA's 1974 Design Award. Both components also bestowed design awards on the firm for a sci-



*GBQC's complex at Southern Illinois University.*

ence/academic building at Pennsylvania's Beaver College and for New Jersey's Stockton State College.

Urban design and city planning projects also have been honored. GBQC won the Pennsylvania Society of Architects/AIA's 1978 Design Award for a civic plaza, ice rink, and street restoration in Corning, N.Y. Its public housing project in West Chester, Pa., received HUD's 1966 First Honor Award.

Other award-winning projects include: Penn's Landing Master Plan, a police headquarters, an urban renewal project, and a theater/mini-shopping mall, all

in Philadelphia; a public housing project in Delaware County, Pennsylvania; a synagogue in Manchester, Conn.; a fine arts building at Goucher College, Baltimore; the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan; and first prize in the Vienna International Town Planning Competition.

Among the firm's current projects are the Franklinton Hotel and twin office tower, a medical education building and

master plan for a hospital at the University of Pennsylvania, and a conference center and hotel at University City Science Center, all in Philadelphia; a major insurance office complex in Baltimore; and a downtown plaza and hotel in Kansas City.

Founders Geddes and Brecher are both graduates of Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Geddes has been dean of Princeton's School of Architecture and Urban Planning since 1965, and Brecher teaches architecture at Drexel University. Qualls also graduated from Harvard, and Cunningham earned his B. Arch. degree from Pennsylvania.